UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.237/41
20 October 1993

Original: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Eighth session
Geneva, 16-27 August 1993

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE WORK OF ITS EIGHTH SESSION HELD AT GENEVA FROM 16 TO 27 AUGUST 1993

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The eighth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Geneva from 16 to 27 August 1993. The session was convened in accordance with the decisions in paragraphs 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992 and confirmed by the Committee at its seventh session (see A/AC.237/31, para. 46).

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela, at the 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August 1993. He welcomed all participants and particularly Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Professor Bert Bolin, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Mr. Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Chairman of the Participants' Meetings of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Ambassador Lionel Hurst, Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), who had been invited to address the session at its 1st plenary meeting. He noted that the session would be the first full session of the Committee since the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992. Both Working Groups I and II would be taking up items of the work programme agreed upon by the Committee at its sixth session. The workload was both heavy and urgent, particularly since 31 countries had already ratified the Convention which might enter into force sooner than originally expected. He congratulated the secretariat for its substantive documentation, which he felt would greatly assist the Committee in its work.

3. The Executive Secretary, in presenting the documentation for the session, stated that the intention was to focus on how to make the Convention work. The documents had been designed to stimulate discussion. Background information was provided, questions - some mildly provocative - were raised and, where appropriate, possible courses of action were suggested. He also stressed the need to keep pace with other ongoing processes, particularly those of the IPCC and the GEF.

4. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme pledged UNEP's full support to the Convention process and outlined specific activities where she felt UNEP assistance would be meaningful. These included research and data needs and corresponding inputs from the developing countries, the development of methodologies for the measurement and analysis of greenhouse gases, the development of guidelines for climate change impacts and adaptation assessment, and information exchange. A progress report on a project on information exchange, developed jointly with the interim secretariat, was before the Committee at its present session.

5. The Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization congratulated the Committee on its work and the progress it had achieved. He referred to a number of recent severe weather anomalies and stressed the need for an improved global observing system of the atmosphere and the hydrosphere, including the oceans. Indeed, the past few years had shown a decrease in observations and specific areas of Africa and Latin America were seriously deficient. He described developments in the implementation of the World Climate Programme and called upon all nations to join in the effort to move forward in the science and services of climate forecasting for sustainable development. He pledged continuation of WMO support to the implementation of the Convention.

6. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change presented a progress report on the work of the IPCC. He explained the step by step working procedure of the IPCC, particularly as it related to the exchange of letters between himself and the Chairman of the Committee. The IPCC would produce a special report by November 1994 which would address those issues which it felt would be of importance to the agenda of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The second full assessment report by the IPCC would be completed in late 1995. The IPCC was ready to provide every possible assistance to the Committee.

7. The Chairman of the Participants' Meetings of the Global Environment Facility briefed the Committee on the latest developments regarding the restructuring and replenishment of the GEF. He outlined the plans of the GEF to adapt to the needs of the Convention, pointing out, at the same time, that the GEF would not necessarily be the sole source of funding for the implementation of the Convention. The GEF was committed to supporting the Convention, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity. He hoped this support could be provided in a pragmatic and flexible manner.

8. The Vice-Chairman of the Commission for Sustainable Development, speaking on behalf of its Chairman, informed participants of the decisions taken by the first substantive session of CSD, held in New York in June 1993. He emphasized the interest of CSD in promoting the harmonization of the activities of other relevant agencies and forums, including the Convention process. He looked forward to close cooperation with the Committee in the future.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Officers

9. The Officers of the Committee and of its two Working Groups are as follows:

Chairman:	Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria) Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland) Mr. T.P. Sreenivasan (India) Ms. Penelope Wensley (Australia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland)

Working Group I

Co-Chairmen:	Mr. Mohamed M. Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania) Ms. Cornelia Quennet (Germany)
Vice-Chairman: (in charge of consultations)	Mr. Edmundo de Alba Alcaraz (Mexico)

Working Group II

Co-Chairmen: Mr. Nobutoshi Akao (Japan)
Mr. Robert F. Van Lierop (Vanuatu)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Tibor Faragó (Hungary)

B. Adoption of the agenda

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Organizational matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;

   (b) Organization of work.

2. Matters relating to commitments (Working Group I):

   (a) Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases;

   (b) Criteria for joint implementation;

   (c) First review of information communicated by each Party included in Annex I of the Convention.

3. Matters relating to arrangements for the financial mechanism and for technical and financial support to developing country Parties (Working Group II):

   (a) Implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paragraphs 1-4;

   (b) Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support.

4. Procedural, institutional and legal matters (Working Group II):

   (a) Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

5. Activities of the United Nations system related to the Convention.

6. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention.

7. Future sessions of the Committee: calendar and priorities.

8. Review of the activities of the interim secretariat, including review of extrabudgetary funds.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee at its eighth session.

C. Organization of work

11. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Committee approved the organization of its work as contained in document A/AC.237/32. It was agreed that the two Working Groups would further refine their respective work programmes to ensure the timely preparation of the conclusions of the Committee (see A/AC.237/32, annex II).

12. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 23 August, the Co-Chairmen of Working Groups I and II reported on the progress of consideration of agenda items under their respective responsibilities.

D. Attendance

13. The eighth session was attended by representatives of the following 148 States:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Rep.
Chad
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Rep. of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Rep.
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Rep.
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Lithuania
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Rep. of Korea
Rep. of Moldova
Romania
Russian Fed.
Rwanda
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey

Tuvalu	United Republic of Tanzania	Vanuatu
Uganda	United States of America	Venezuela
Ukraine	Uruguay	Vietnam
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Uzbekistan	Yemen
		Zambia

14. The following United Nations offices and programmes were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

15. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO; World Health Organization; World Bank; World Meteorological Organization; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); Global Environment Facility of the World Bank/UNDP/UNEP.

16. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation; Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee; Caribbean Meteorological Organization; Commission of the European Communities; International Energy Agency/OECD; League of Arab States; Organization of African Unity; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development; Organization of the Islamic Conference; South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

17. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

Category I: International Chamber of Commerce; World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Category II: Environmental Defense Fund; Greenpeace International; International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association; World Coal Institute; World Council of Churches.

Roster: International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers; Natural Resources Defense Council.

18. The following other non-governmental organizations were also represented: Alliance for Responsible CFC Policy; Alliance for Sound Atmospheric Policy; Alliance to Save Energy; Appropriate Technology International; Center for Clean Air Policy; Center for the Environment - Cornell University; Center for our Common Future; Climate Action Network; Climate Council; Climate Institute; Earth Council; Edison Electric Institute; European Chemical Industry Council; Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development; Geneva International Peace Research Institute; Germanwatch; Global Climate Coalition; Global

Commons Institute; Global Industrial and Social Progress Research Institute; Indian Law Resource Center; Institut de Recherche sur l'environnement; Institute for Environmental Studies; International Academy of the Environment; International Council of Environmental Law; International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives; International Council of Scientific Unions; International Council of Women; National Coal Association; National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection; Rainforest Regeneration; Stockholm Environment Institute; Tata Energy Research Institute; Union of Concerned Scientists; Vertic; Woods Hole Research Center; World Conservation Union; World Resources Institute; World Wide Fund for Nature; Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy.

E. Documentation

19. The documents before the Committee at its eighth session are listed in the annex to the present report.

III. NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER STATEMENTS

A. National communications

20. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August, the representatives of Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand and Norway made brief presentations of their respective national communications submitted to the interim secretariat in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/195, paragraph 4, and made available to the Committee. They summarized the purpose, content and scope of their communications.

21. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 23 August, the representatives of the Czech Republic and Italy made similar presentations of their respective national communications.

22. National communications submitted to the interim secretariat in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/195, paragraph 4, are listed in documents A/AC.237/INF. 12 and A/AC.237/INF. 12/Add.1 (and Corr.1 in English only).

B. Other statements

23. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August, the representatives of Canada, Senegal, Switzerland and the United States of America made statements outlining activities in their countries related to the entry into force and implementation of the Convention, including the preparation of national communications.

24. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, the representative of Nauru conveyed the views on climate change and sea level rise of the Heads of State of 16 Pacific Island countries attending the fourth session of the South Pacific Forum, held in Nauru from 4 to 13 August 1993, as contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Communiqué issued by the Forum.

25. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 23 August, the observer of the Commission of the European Communities made a statement.

26. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 August, the representative of France provided information concerning activities being conducted in his country to meet the objective of the Convention.

27. At the 4th (closing) plenary meeting, on 27 August, the representative of Hungary, speaking also on behalf of Poland, made a statement (see document A/AC.237/Misc. 31)

28. Also at the 4th plenary meeting, the representative of the Climate Action Network made a statement on behalf of environmental non-governmental organizations.

IV. MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

29. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its sixth session (A/AC.237/24, paras. 44 and 45), allocated agenda item 2 (Matters relating to commitments) to Working Group I.

30. At its 1st meeting, on 16 August, Working Group I, bearing in mind rule 46 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, maintained the decision taken at the second session (A/AC.237/9, para. 25) that its meetings would be open unless it decided otherwise. Working Group I held 10 open meetings, from 16 to 26 August, as well as a number of informal consultations.

A. Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases

1. Proceedings

31. Working Group I held a preliminary discussion on sub-item 2(a) (Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases) at its 2nd to 5th, 7th and 10th meetings, on 17 to 19 and 26 August 1993. Document A/AC.237/34, prepared by the interim secretariat, was taken as a basis for consideration of the subject. It also had before it the following documents related to the sub-item:

(a) Note by the Executive Secretary, transmitting a letter dated 1 March 1993 from the Chairman of the IPCC addressed to the Chairman of the Committee (A/AC.237/29);

(b) A letter dated 18 March 1993 from the Chairman of the Committee to the Chairman of the IPCC (A/AC.237/30);

(c) Note by the interim secretariat on review of information by the Conference of the Parties: the roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention (A/AC.237/33).

32. Statements under this sub-item were made by representatives of 38 States, including one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States and one on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The observer for a non-governmental organization made a statement.

33. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 17 August, the Chairman of the IPCC responded to questions raised by representatives in the Working Group, in the light of his earlier presentation to the Committee. He supplemented orally his progress report included in document A/AC.237/34, and provided information and advice to the Working Group.

34. Having discussed texts presented by the Co-Chairmen (A/AC.237/L.11), Working Group I, at its 10th meeting, on 26 August, recommended, for adoption by the Committee, draft conclusions on the sub-item drawn from the Convention, the debate and background documents.

2. Conclusions

35. On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee, at its 4th plenary meeting on 27 August, agreed upon the following conclusions on sub-item 2(a):

36. A number of delegations offered comments on the background documents and on the views expressed during the debate. Given the importance and complexity of this item, member States were encouraged to offer further comments to the interim secretariat by 30 September 1993, for consideration by the Committee at its ninth session.

37. The Committee expressed its thanks to Professor Bolin and to the technical experts of the IPCC for the contribution they had provided to the Committee. The Committee expressed the hope that the concerns raised during the discussion would be given consideration by the IPCC in its ongoing Programme on methodologies for inventories. General appreciation was expressed of the work conducted by the IPCC Programme. The IPCC was urged to continue its efforts to refine and further develop methodologies for sources and sinks of all greenhouse gases in all economic sectors, in conformity with the comprehensive approach contained in the Convention (Article 3.3). Efforts by the IPCC and other organizations to ensure that developing countries were involved in the development of methodologies were acknowledged and it was recommended that such efforts be strengthened. It was suggested that an early priority for bilateral and multilateral assistance and cooperation programmes should be technical and financial cooperation related to methodologies, including training and capacity building.

38. The Committee stressed the need to strengthen its relationship with the IPCC. Therefore, it was recommended that IPCC members should be present to brief delegations and demonstrate work under way to the Committee and the Conference of the Parties (COP) at their future sessions and, vice versa, that officers of the Committee and later of the COP should attend sessions of the IPCC. Emphasis was placed on the need to maintain and strengthen close cooperation and exchange of information between the Committee and the IPCC. Close cooperation between the head of the interim secretariat and the IPCC is requested in Article 21.2 of the Convention. In this regard, the Committee welcomed the suggestion of the Chairman of the IPCC to establish a small joint working party to analyse issues on which advice from the IPCC to the Committee is needed. Therefore, the Committee requested its Chairman, assisted by the Executive Secretary, to consult with the Chairman of the IPCC on the establishment of arrangements as may be needed to ensure harmonization of work in the interest of the Convention. The competence and composition of that small joint working party should also be the subject of these consultations between the officers of the Committee and the IPCC.

39. The Committee recognized that fully tested comparable methodologies for all greenhouse gas sources and sinks, agreed upon by the IPCC, may not be available in time for the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP I) and that some of the available methodologies would produce results with different degrees of uncertainty. However, it was agreed that all greenhouse gas emissions and removals by sinks should be included in national inventories, with due indication of the range of uncertainty within which results should be assessed. In this respect, work on inventories in other frameworks (Montreal Protocol, Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution) and other available methods (in particular CORINAIR1/) should be taken into account. Lack of methodologies agreed by the Parties would be no reason for delaying the development of national inventories.

40. It was suggested that the first IPCC guidelines be considered as a first generation of methodologies. Moreover, the proposed IPCC guidelines for national inventories were considered as a useful contribution to the methodologies to be agreed upon by the COP. It was agreed that, to ensure transparency, comparability and consistency of inventory data, countries that use their own methodology should provide sufficient documentation to back up the data presented, in the event that an agreed methodology is not available. There was general consensus that the Committee would review the draft IPCC methodologies at its ninth session, and recommend that Annex I Parties use them in preparing their national communications, which would probably be due in the second half of 1994. Acknowledging that methodologies for sources and sinks of all greenhouse gases will not be available by December 1993 or even in time for COP I, Annex I Parties would use non-IPCC methodologies for certain categories of sources and sinks, provided they are backed up by adequate and transparent documentation. In addition, Annex I Parties should try to coordinate and ensure comparability among non-IPCC methodologies to the extent possible and as appropriate. The meshing of the IPCC's timetable of work on inventory methodologies with the Committee's schedule was noted with appreciation. The IPCC draft methodologies will be released in December 1993, followed by an international review during January to April 1994. The Chairman of the IPCC said that he would seek to arrange that, shortly before the tenth session of the Committee, Working Group I of the IPCC would review and approve those methodologies, followed by final approval at the IPCC Plenary, to be held in October/November 1994. In this regard, the IPCC was invited to provide the Committee with minimum requirements for inventories of Annex I Parties, in advance of COP I which will consider those inventories. The IPCC was also invited to inform the Committee at its ninth session on its plans to move beyond the first generation of methodologies, indicating priorities, time line and resources required.

41. The Committee, in accordance with Article 21.2 of the Convention, further requested the IPCC to identify policy issues stemming directly from its scientific and technical work. Those policy issues would then be addressed by the Committee and/or the COP. Moreover, the IPCC was requested to assist the Committee and provide scientific and technical advice on a number of issues. These could include: definition of anthropogenic activities; desirable reporting characteristics to ensure transparency, comparability and consistency; scientific and technical aspects of greenhouse gas emissions related to feedstock and waste treatment; technical aspects of the accounting of imports and exports relevant to the Convention; recommendations for inclusion of additional gases in national inventories; and methods for dealing with scientific, technical and economic uncertainties. In this connection, the allocation of emissions from bunker fuels emerged as being a potentially difficult issue and different options for the treatment of these emissions were advanced. In light of the insufficient information provided on that subject, the Committee requested the interim secretariat, in cooperation with other relevant organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime

Organization, to provide it with policy options for allocation and control of emissions from bunker fuels for consideration at its next session.

42. The year 1990 was recognized as being an appropriate base year for inventories, taking fully into account, in accordance with Article 4.6 of the Convention, the situation of countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy. For some sectors, averaging over a number of years could be considered as part of the agreed methodology. The Committee agreed that the frequency for submitting inventories would depend on the capacities of Parties. Several options were presented, ranging from yearly submissions for Annex I Parties to intervals of three or more years for Annex I Parties and other Parties. This matter will be the subject of a recommendation at a future session, in the light of a decision regarding the performance of the functions of the subsidiary bodies.

43. Although the issue was not on the agenda of the present session, the Committee also touched upon needs for methodologies to calculate emissions by sources and removals by sinks, as referred to in Article 4.2(c), as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of measures undertaken pursuant to the provisions of the Convention. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare a paper on such methodologies, for consideration by the Committee at its ninth session, with references to the work of Annex I countries and the OECD secretariat on the methodologies to evaluate the effectiveness of measures, as well as to the roles of the IPCC and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. The Committee also considered the issue of how to calculate the contributions of different gases to climate change, taking into consideration the concept of global warming potentials. It was pointed out that the methodologies for this latter purpose, as far as they deal with calculations of emissions by sources and removals by sinks, are not identical to those used for preparation of inventories as referred to in Article 12.1. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare a compendium of relevant existing studies.

44. The Committee recognized the value of a system for central collection, management and reporting of inventory data and requested the interim secretariat to prepare a paper with suggestions on the scope, development, organization and management of such a system and on the implications of resource needs to develop and maintain such a system, taking into account existing activities in this area.

45. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare further documentation for discussion by the Committee at its ninth session, as a basis for recommendations to the COP regarding decisions to be taken by the COP on methodologies.

B. Criteria for joint implementation

1. Proceedings

46. Working Group I held a preliminary discussion on sub-item 2(b) (Criteria for joint implementation) at its 5th to 7th and 10th meetings, on 18, 19 and 26 August. Document A/AC.237/35, prepared by the interim secretariat, was taken as a basis for consideration of the subject.

47. Statements under this sub-item were made by the representatives of 59 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

48. Having discussed texts presented by the Co-Chairmen (A/AC.237/L.14), Working Group I, at its 10th meeting, on 26 August, recommended, for adoption by the Committee, draft conclusions on this sub-item.

2. Conclusions

49. On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee, at its 4th plenary meeting on 27 August, agreed upon the following conclusions on sub-item 2(b):

50. Taking into account the complexity as well as the far reaching political implications of the subject, the Committee agreed to continue the discussion on this matter at its next session, with a view to preparing the decisions to be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.

51. In this context, the Committee requested the interim secretariat to provide further documentation on the issue, including a list of possible criteria, taking into account all the views expressed and submissions made during the present session, and any further comments which member States may transmit to the interim secretariat before 30 September 1993. Documents that have been or will be submitted to the interim secretariat may, upon request by the submitting country or organization, be issued by the interim secretariat in the original language only and distributed to all delegations.

C. First review of information communicated by each Party included in Annex I of the Convention

1. Proceedings

52. Working Group I held a preliminary discussion on sub-item 2(c) (First review of information communicated by each Party included in Annex I to the Convention) at its 7th to 10th meetings, on 19, 20 and 26 August. Document A/AC.237/36 and Add.1, prepared by the interim secretariat, was taken as a basis for consideration of the subject.

53. The Working Group also had before it a note by the interim secretariat on review of information by the Conference of the Parties: the roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention (A/AC.237/33).

54. Statements under this sub-item were made by representatives of 21 States, including one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

55. Having discussed texts presented by the Co-Chairmen (A/AC.237/L.13), Working Group I, at its 10th meeting, on 26 August, recommended, for adoption by the Committee, draft conclusions on the sub-item drawn from the Convention, the debate and background documents.

2. Conclusions

56. On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee, at its 4th plenary meeting, on 27 August, agreed upon the following conclusions on sub-item 2(c):

57. The Committee expressed its thanks for the presentation of the work undertaken by a group of countries and an organization included in Annex I to the Convention and other organizations in the preparation of national communications of information under the Convention. This initiative was seen as a useful contribution to the preparatory work of the Committee. These countries and organizations should report to the Committee at its ninth session on further results achieved under the project on which they had reported to the Committee, thus enabling the Committee to take advantage of their contribution.

58. It was recognized that, in light of the short time likely to be available before the first communications of Annex I Parties are due, draft guidelines for the preparation of their communications should be provided by the interim secretariat for consideration at the ninth session of the Committee. Such guidelines would ensure consistency, transparency and comparability of information across communications, as well as flexibility, taking into account specific national situations. Suggestions on possible common elements were advanced and will be taken into account by the interim secretariat in the documentation for the ninth session. The interim secretariat should outline the minimum core information necessary, the type and level of detail of data, periodicity of submission thereof and methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of measures undertaken. It was proposed that the issue of confidentiality of data be left aside for the time being, until the need for such rules had been demonstrated.

59. The Committee placed emphasis on the critical importance of the assessment of the effects of measures on emission trends and of the adequacy of measures. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare a paper on methodologies for such assessments, as already envisaged in the context of methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of all greenhouse gases.

60. Practical arrangements for distribution and transmission of communications were recognized as being important. Initial suggestions were made by the interim secretariat, which was requested to propose to the next session an efficient procedure for distributing and translating communications, including an estimate of the cost of meeting those needs.

61. Communications by Parties must be reviewed by the COP. It was agreed that such reviews should be facilitative, non-confrontational, open and transparent. They should facilitate exchange of information and experiences on matters relating to the implementation of the Convention. The review process could include several steps outlined in the following paragraphs. In this regard, the diagram contained in annex I to document A/AC.237/36 was discussed. It was agreed that it should be further elaborated upon, taking into account proposals by, and experiences of, member States. The value of informal consultations among Parties on matters relating to communication and review of information was recognized.

62. The Committee agreed on the importance of two principal tasks: (a) a thorough analysis of national communications; and (b) a compilation and synthesis of the information provided by the Parties in their national communications, including the overall effects of policies and measures. These tasks should be carried out by the subsidiary bodies, drawing upon, inter alia, the work of the IPCC.

(a) The task of analysing national communications should include: verifying methodologies used; comparing national data with authoritative international sources; noting the inclusion or absence of information and data, as well as their quality; reviewing projections of emissions by sources and removals by sinks and the assumptions on which those projections were

based; and assessing the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of claimed mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as evaluating stated national impacts of climate change. The Committee acknowledged that additional information or visits to clarify country reports, with the prior approval of the country concerned, might be useful. It might also be useful to designate national focal points with which the bodies of the Convention could interact;

(b) The task of compiling and synthesizing information contained in national communication was considered important for the purpose of assessing the overall effects of policies and measures. The methodologies for this purpose are critical and should be given further consideration.

63. An assessment of the adequacy of the commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b) is required by Article 4.2(d) of the Convention. It was agreed that a compilation and a synthesis of information on the global situation would provide a basis for such assessment under the Convention.

64. The interim secretariat was requested to provide additional information at the next session of the Committee to facilitate discussion on the first review of the adequacy of commitments.

65. The interim secretariat was also requested to provide considerations on the format and content of the report of the COP on implementation (Article 7.2(f)). The documentation should address the kind of secretariat support needed, including financial and human resource implications.

66. It was recalled that decisions taken with regard to communications by Annex I Parties would, to some extent, also be relevant to the communications of developing country Parties due at a later stage. In this context, a proposal was made that developing country Parties set up units, if they should so desire, supported by the financial mechanism, to serve as contact points for implementation of the activities under the Convention.

D. The roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention

1. Proceedings

67. Working Group I considered the roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention at its 2nd to 10th meetings on 17-20 and 26 August, in the context of sub-items 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c). In addition to documentation provided under each sub-item, the Working Group had before it document A/AC.237/33, prepared by the interim secretariat, on the roles of the subsidiary bodies.

68. Having discussed texts presented by the Co-Chairmen (A/AC.237/L.12), Working Group I, at its 10th meeting, on 26 August, recommended, for adoption by the Committee, draft conclusions on this subject drawn from the Convention, the debate and background documents.

2. Conclusions

69. On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee at its 4th plenary meeting, on 27 August, agreed upon the following conclusions on this subject:

70. In light of the timing for the first communications of information by Annex I Parties and the key importance of the reviews of information and of the adequacy of the commitments contained in Article 4.2(a) and (b), the Committee agreed that, at its next session, a separate agenda item would be allocated to the consideration of the roles of subsidiary bodies established by the Convention, including possible interim arrangements prior to COP I. It was proposed to adopt new acronyms for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice [SUBSTA] and for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation [SUBIM].

71. It was recognized that, in order to prepare effectively for COP I and satisfactorily carry out the first review of the implementation of the Convention, the Parties would have to rely on the work assigned by the Convention to the subsidiary bodies. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare, for the next session, documentation offering options to clarify the respective roles of the subsidiary bodies, the relationships between them and their relationship with other bodies, including the IPCC. The document should also outline possible options available to satisfy the requirements of COP I, with their full range of implications. Suggestions on the appropriate timing for meetings of the subsidiary bodies, as well as on the need for technical secretariat support, including human and financial resource implications, would also have to be considered. In the preparation of this document the interim secretariat should take into consideration the documentation on methodologies and on the first review of information, as well as the following guidance.

72. In its documentation the secretariat will present the legal ramifications of the following institutional options identified in the course of the debate:

(a) Should the Committee convene the subsidiary bodies on an interim basis before COP I?

(b) Should the Committee carry out the tasks of the subsidiary bodies, on an interim basis?

(c) Should COP I be held in two parts, namely, an organizational session, inter alia, to convene the subsidiary bodies, followed by a substantive session after these bodies have delivered their reports?

73. Although Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention outline the respective tasks of the two subsidiary bodies, it was concluded that further elaboration of those tasks to assist the COP in reviewing the implementation of the Convention was needed before those bodies started working. This would serve the purpose of clarifying further the respective mandates and responsibilities of those bodies.

74. It was stressed that existing experiences under other international legal agreements could provide useful insights into the consideration of the issue.

V. MATTERS RELATING TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES

75. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its sixth session (A/AC.237/24, paras. 44 and 45), allocated agenda item 3 (Matters relating to arrangements for the financial mechanism and for technical and financial support to developing country Parties) to Working Group II.

76. At its 1st meeting, on 16 August, Working Group II, bearing in mind rule 46 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, maintained the decision taken at the second session (A/AC.237/9, para. 36) that its meetings would be open unless it decided otherwise. Working Group II held 12 open meetings from 16 to 26 August, as well as a number of informal consultations.

A. Implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paras. 1-4

1. Proceedings

77. Working Group II considered sub-item 3(a) (Implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paras. 1-4) at its 1st to 12th meetings, on 16-20, 23 and 26 August. It dealt with matters relating to the implementation of the provisions of Articles 11 and 21.3 of the Convention, in the framework of the preparation of COP I, which is to make arrangements to implement the provisions of Article 11, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Convention. It had before it the following documents related to the sub-item:

(a) Note by the interim secretariat on implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paras. 1-4 (A/AC.237/37);

(b) Note by the Officers of Working Group II on proposals on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for the financial mechanism (A/AC.237/37/Add.1);

(c) Note by the interim secretariat on approaches to the determination of agreed full incremental costs (A/AC.237/37/Add.2);

(d) Note by the Chairman of the Committee communicating a note by the interim secretariat to the Bureau on modalities for the functioning of operational linkages between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism (A/AC.237/37/Add.3);

(e) Note by the interim secretariat on elements relevant to the assessment of funding needs (A/AC.237/37/Add.4);

(f) Draft decision submitted by the Group of 77 and China, entitled "Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate change to the Global Environment Facility" (A/AC.237/L.18).

78. At the 1st meeting, on 16 August, the Chairman of the Participants' Meetings of the Global Environment Facility responded to questions raised by representatives in the Working Group, in the light of his earlier presentation to the Committee.

79. Statements were made under this sub-item by representatives of 55 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

80. At the 6th meeting, on 19 August, statements were made by the observer for the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, an intergovernmental organization, and the observer for Climate Action Network, a non-governmental organization.

81. At the 11th meeting, on 25 August, the Co-Chairmen presented revised texts (A/AC.237/WG.II/L.6 and L.7) on this sub-item for consideration by the Working Group. Following discussions on the above documents, the Working Group, at its 12th meeting on 26 August, agreed to the submission of preliminary conclusions by the Co-Chairmen, for adoption by the Committee.

2. Conclusions

82. In the light of the deliberations of Working Group II, the Committee, at its 4th plenary meeting, on 27 August, agreed upon the following conclusions on this sub-item:

83. The Committee decided to focus its work on the implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism) and considered, in particular: (a) policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities; (b) modalities for the functioning of operational linkages between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entity2/ of the financial mechanism; (c) approaches to the determination of "agreed full incremental costs"; and (d) elements relevant to the assessment of funding needs.

(a) Policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities

84. General agreement was reached on the following:

(i) The Conference of the Parties, the supreme body of the Convention pursuant to Article 7, will, pursuant to Article 11, decide on policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities related to the Convention for the financial mechanism, which shall function under the guidance of and be accountable to the COP. Such policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria will be in conformity with the relevant provisions of Articles 4 and 11, keeping in mind Articles 2 (Objective), 3 (Principles) and 7 (COP);

(ii) Eligibility criteria will apply to countries and to activities and will be applied in accordance with Article 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3. Regarding eligibility of countries, only countries that are Parties to the Convention would be eligible to receive funding upon the entry into force of the Convention. In this context, only developing country Parties would be eligible to receive funding through the financial mechanism, in accordance with Article 4.3;

(iii) Priority should be given to the funding of agreed full costs (or agreed full incremental costs, as appropriate) incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12.1 and other relevant commitments under the Convention. In the initial period emphasis should be placed on enabling activities undertaken by developing country Parties, such as planning, endogenous capacity-building including institutional strengthening, training, research and education, that will facilitate implementation, in accordance with the Convention, of effective response measures.

85. In the light of a long discussion of this topic, the Committee considered that, to implement the provisions contained in the Convention, further work would be needed on policy guidance regarding the scope of the financial mechanism (relevant elements of Articles 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8, 11.1, 11.5), other eligibility criteria than those agreed in sub-paragraph 84(ii) above, and other programme priorities than those agreed in sub-paragraph 84(iii) above.

(b) Modalities for the functioning of operational linkages between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entity of the financial mechanism

86. Having reviewed document A/AC.237/37/Add.3 on "Modalities for the functioning of operational linkages between the COP and the operating entity of the financial mechanism", the Committee reached the following preliminary conclusions:

(i) The COP, the supreme body of the Convention, and the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, shall agree upon arrangements to give effect to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 11 through the operational linkages which are discussed below;

(ii) In line with Article 11.1 of the Convention, the COP will, after each of its sessions, communicate to the governing body of the operating entity relevant policy guidance for implementation and action by that governing body, which shall accordingly ensure the conformity of the entity's work with the guidance of the COP. Guidance from the COP will address issues relating to policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria, as well as possible relevant aspects of the activities of the operating entity that are related to the Convention;

(iii) The governing body of the operating entity has the responsibility of ensuring that funded projects related to the Convention are in conformity with the policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities established by the COP. It will report regularly to the COP on its activities related to the Convention and the conformity of these activities with the guidance received from the COP;

(iv) Regular reports by the Chairman or secretariat of the operating entity to its governing body will be made available to the COP through its secretariat. Other official documentation of the operating entity should also be made available to the COP through its secretariat;

(v) In addition, the COP should receive and review at each of its sessions a report from the governing body of the operating entity which should include specific information on how it has applied the guidance and decisions of the COP in its work related to the Convention. This report should be of a substantive nature and incorporate the programme of future activities of this entity in the areas covered by the Convention and an analysis on how the entity, in its operations, implemented the policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities related to the

Convention established by the COP. In particular, a synthesis of the different projects under implementation and a listing of the projects approved in the areas covered by the Convention, as well as a financial report including accounting and evaluation of its activities in the implementation of the Convention, indicating the availability of resources, should be included;

(vi) In order to meet the requirements of its accountability to the COP, reports submitted by the governing body of the operating entity should cover all its activities carried out in implementing the Convention, whether decisions on such activities are made by the governing body of the operating entity or by bodies operating under its auspices for the implementation of its programme. To this end, it shall make such arrangements with such bodies as might be necessary regarding the disclosure of information;

(vii) The funding decisions for specific projects should be agreed between the developing country Party concerned and the operating entity in conformity with policy guidance from the COP. However, if any Party considers that a decision regarding one of the specific projects does not comply with the policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities established by the COP in the context of the Convention, the COP should analyse the observations presented and take decisions on the basis of compliance with such policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities. In the event that the COP considers that this specific project decision does not comply with the policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities established by the COP, it may ask the governing body of the operating entity for further clarification on this specific project decision and in due time ask for a reconsideration of that decision;

(viii) The COP will periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all modalities established in accordance with Article 11.3. Such evaluations will be taken into account by the COP in its decisions, pursuant to Article 11.4, on the arrangements for the financial mechanism.

87. The Committee decided that further discussion would be needed at the ninth session on Article 11.3(d), in conjunction with its chapeau.

88. The interim secretariat was requested to seek the opinion of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs on appropriate arrangements which might be entered into between the COP and the operating entity.

(c) Approaches to the determination of "agreed full incremental costs"

89. Considering the need for additional analysis of this issue, the Committee requested the interim secretariat to prepare another document for consideration at its ninth session taking into account, inter alia, comments made by delegations at the present session. Documents on this subject provided to the interim secretariat prior to the ninth session of the Committee will be made available to delegations in the original language.

(d) Elements relevant to the assessment of funding needs

90. After a preliminary discussion of document A/AC.237/37/Add.4, the Committee decided that a substantive discussion should be deferred to the ninth session of the Committee.

(e) Future work

91. The Committee resolved to give priority at its ninth session to consideration of the implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism) and to the adoption of such recommendations for decisions by the COP as might be necessary, in the context of the mandate of the COP, on guidance to the operating entity of the financial mechanism concerning its policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities related to the Convention, and on the determination of "agreed full incremental costs".

92. The Committee requested its Chairman to convey the above conclusions to the forthcoming meetings of the Participants in the GEF at Washington, D.C. (22-24 September 1993). It also deferred for further consideration during its ninth session the draft decision submitted by the G-77 and China at the seventh session of the Committee (A/AC.237/L.18), which is listed in the annex to this report.

B. Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support

93. Working Group II considered sub-item 3(b) (Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support) at its 11th meeting, on 24 August.

94. For its consideration of the sub-item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Secretary on a joint pilot project for an information exchange system for country activities (A/AC.237/38), prepared in response to the decisions of the Committee at its sixth and seventh sessions (A/AC.237/24, para. 51, and A/AC.237/31, para. 32(q)-(r)).

95. The Executive Secretary introduced the document, noting that the joint project had been referred to by the Executive Director of UNEP in her statement to the Committee at its first plenary meeting. The Executive Secretary stressed that the primary purpose of the joint project (known as CLIMEX) would be to facilitate the flow of external resources to developing and other countries, in support of activities related to climate change that they wished to undertake. Another output would be to exchange information on completed national activities that governments might voluntarily make available, at a level of detail determined by the governments concerned.

96. Statements were made under this sub-item by the representatives of 16 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States. Most delegations welcomed the pilot project and the cooperation between UNEP and the interim secretariat.

97. Many delegations emphasized in their statements the voluntary nature of the participation of countries in this project and the avoidance of any conditionality in this connection. Attention was also drawn to the need to separate the project clearly from the process of communication of information under Article 12 of the Convention, as well as from the fulfilment of the financial commitments of developed country Parties, and to avoid any pre-emption of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

98. Several delegations looked forward to the timely availability of information resulting from this joint project, particularly to developing countries. Some delegations also suggested that different ways of disseminating information be considered, including dissemination in more than one language, and via the distribution of diskettes and relevant software.

99. The Executive Secretary replied to requests for information and clarifications. In particular he explained the funding plan and the relationships of the pilot project with other activities. He stated that funding was not being sought from the GEF, but from UNEP and from extrabudgetary resources to be raised by the interim secretariat. The representative of UNEP confirmed that a project proposal would be submitted to UNEP's project approval process, immediately after the session of the Committee.

100. The Committee invited the Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive Secretary, in their continuing work on this project, to take full account of the comments and concerns expressed by delegations during the discussion of this item and to report on progress to the next session of the Committee for its further consideration.

VI. PROCEDURAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

A. Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

1. Proceedings

101. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August, the Committee, in accordance with the decisions taken at its sixth session (A/AC.237/24, paras. 44 and 45), allocated item 4 (Procedural, institutional and legal matters) to Working Group II.

102. The Working Group considered sub-item 4(a) (Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties) at its 10th meeting, on 23 August. For its consideration of the sub-item, the Working Group had before it a note by the interim secretariat on the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (A/AC.237/27/Rev.1 and Corr. 1).

103. Statements were made by the representatives of 15 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

104. In the discussion of draft rule 54, several representatives expressed the view that the rules of procedure should provide that the sessions of the COP, as well as meetings of the subsidiary bodies, be held in six languages. A few representatives remarked that this would have considerable budgetary implications and felt that information on costs should be made available before a final decision was taken.

105. In response to a question from a representative regarding the interpretation of the term "private" in draft rule 30, the interim secretariat informed the Working Group that the Rules of Procedure of the Basel Convention (upon which the draft rules were largely based) provide for meetings of the Conference of the Parties of that Convention and its subsidiary bodies to be held in private and that the word "private" has been interpreted in that context to permit the participation therein of duly accredited intergovernmental and non-governmental observers, in accordance with Rules 6 and 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Basel Convention.

2. Conclusions

106. In light of the deliberations of Working Group II, the Committee, at its 4th plenary meeting on 27 August, agreed upon the following conclusions on this sub-item:

(a) The secretariat would prepare, for consideration at the ninth session, a revised draft of document A/AC.237/27/Rev.1, taking into account comments made during the discussion of this sub-item.

(b) An informal, ad hoc and open-ended group of delegations constituting the "friends of the Co-Chairs of Working Group II" would meet during the ninth session, while the Working Groups were not meeting, to review the draft rules in detail and to report back to Working Group II.

(c) Consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, upon which the draft rules were largely based, Rule 30 of the draft rules of procedure would be interpreted as permitting duly accredited observers to participate in "private" meetings.

(d) The interim secretariat would inform the Committee, at its ninth session, of the financial implications of Rule 54, wherein the official languages of the Conference of the Parties, and possibly of the subsidiary bodies, would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The interim secretariat would further inform the Committee of the cost of holding meetings in three official languages only.

VII. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE CONVENTION

107. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 August, the Committee considered the information on activities related to the Convention received by the interim secretariat from United Nations entities and other international organizations, contained in document A/AC.237/39 and Add.1.

108. Statements were made by the representatives of six States.

109. The observers of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) made statements concerning their activities.

110. The Committee agreed that the information provided to the interim secretariat was most useful but felt that there was scope for refining its focus by improving the coverage, content and classification. It considered in particular that relevant information from the multilateral and regional development banks and funds should be included.

111. The Committee also agreed that activities reported should relate specifically to the objective of the Convention. Priority areas continued to be identified in the course of discussions in the Working Groups but included activities contributing to the rapid implementation of the Convention in such areas as the financial mechanism, inventories and research and observational systems. Capacity building, in terms of personnel and technology, was emphasized.

112. The Committee requested the interim secretariat to analyse the information received, in consultation with the concerned organizations, with a view to identifying gaps, overlapping and complementarities and to report thereon to the Committee. In this connection the need to identify collaborative or joint activities by organizations was stressed.

113. The Committee decided that an item on the activities of the United Nations system related to the Convention should be on the agenda of its tenth session.

VIII. STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION

114. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 August, the Committee noted that there were 166 signatories to the Convention and that instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession had been deposited by 31 States up to that date.

115. The representatives of Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kiribati, Mauritania, and Uganda informed the Committee that their countries had completed ratification procedures at the national level and were transmitting instruments of ratification to the depositary.

116. The representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Congo, Ethiopia, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tuvalu, Uruguay and Venezuela reported to the Committee on the status of ratification of the Convention in their countries. A similar statement was made by the representative of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

IX. FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

117. At its seventh session, the Committee had requested the interim secretariat to make proposals for three further sessions of the Committee of two weeks each, two in 1994 and one in 1995, taking account of certain possible dates and places (A/AC.237/31, para. 46).

118. The interim secretariat subsequently obtained information from the Conference Services of the United Nations concerning the dates of availability of meetings services at different United Nations locations and presented that information to the Bureau.

119. On the recommendation of the Bureau, the Committee decided at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 August, that its remaining sessions be scheduled as follows:

Ninth session, 7 - 18 February 1994, Geneva
Tenth session, 22 - 31 August 1994, Geneva (including Saturday, 27 August)
Eleventh session, 6 - 17 February 1995, New York.

120. The Committee recalled that its schedule for 1994 and 1995 would need to be approved by the General Assembly, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994 - 1995 and on the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences.

121. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 27 August, two representatives noted that Nairobi had been considered too costly to host a future session of the Committee and requested that measures be taken by the United Nations to ensure that this would not be a permanent handicap to holding meetings at that location.

X. FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

122. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 27 August, following consultations with the German delegation and the Secretariat at Headquarters, the Chairman proposed that the Committee adopt a decision regarding the Conference of the Parties with a view to ensuring that the first session of the Conference of the Parties is properly covered by the United Nations budget and that the dates are included in the United Nations Calendar of Conferences.

123. The Committee consequently decided, at that meeting, to recommend to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session that it:

(a) Accept the invitation of the Government of Germany to host in Berlin the first session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(b) Include that session of the Conference of the Parties in the United Nations Calendar of Conferences;

(c) Decide that the session be held from 28 March to 7 April 1995, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention regarding its entry into force and regarding the convening of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

124. It was noted that the General Assembly could take up this matter in the context of its consideration of the follow-up of UNCED.

XI. REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING REVIEW OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

125. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 August, the Executive Secretary introduced a note containing information on administrative and budgetary matters, including the staffing situation and needs of the interim secretariat, the need for extrabudgetary funds and the progress of certain activities undertaken by the interim secretariat in collaboration with partner organizations, related principally to information, training and the promotion of public awareness in support of the Convention (A/AC.237/40 (and Corr.1 in English only)).

126. The Executive Secretary noted that the United Nations programme budget currently provided less than half of the staffing of the interim secretariat. The remainder was provided by WMO and UNEP, funded under bilateral arrangements, or supported by the trust fund for the negotiating process. Prospects for an increase in staffing under the United Nations programme budget in the biennium 1994-1995 appeared to be limited. Currently, staffing was being supplemented by temporary support arrangements within the context of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), of which the interim secretariat is part. The Executive Secretary commented that this response to General Assembly resolution

47/195, paragraph 11, which had requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the interim secretariat, reflected the nature of the United Nations programme budget process, including its priorities and the limitations on budgetary growth. Final decisions on these matters rested with Governments. Additional staffing needs would have to be met from extrabudgetary sources.

127. The Executive Secretary expressed thanks to the contributors to the special voluntary fund for the participation of developing countries and to the trust fund for the negotiating process. The level of support for participation was healthy and had permitted the interim secretariat to offer funding to 115 developing countries and 19 countries with economies in transition, the latter with additional funding. Ninety-one developing countries and 17 countries with economies in transition had taken advantage of this support for their participation in the eighth session. It was estimated that a total of US$1.4 million would be needed to support participation by these two groups of countries in the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee in 1994. The Executive Secretary noted the limits of one-member delegations having to cover parallel Working Group meetings and a wide range of subject matter, but regretted that the amount of funding available did not permit the interim secretariat to offer support to two delegates per country. The criteria for determining the eligibility of countries for support would be kept under review.

128. With regard to the trust fund for the negotiating process, the Executive Secretary noted with appreciation the doubling of contributions in 1993 as compared to 1992 and expressed the hope that this increase would continue. Demand on the trust fund would be heavy in the next biennium, since it would be the main source of additional support for the activities of the interim secretariat. It could be as high as $US4.5 million for the biennium 1994-1995.

129. Statements were made by representatives of seven States. Some representatives of developed countries provided information on their current and future contributions to one or both extrabudgetary funds. One of these noted the need for a significant increase in the resources of the interim secretariat, whether through the United Nations programme budget or through extrabudgetary funding. Another underlined the need for priorities in the interim secretariat's work, given resource limitations. Some representatives of developing countries emphasized the importance of maintaining balance in the recruitment of staff to the interim secretariat, a point which the Executive Secretary endorsed. One of these representatives referred to the location of the permanent secretariat, stating that locations in addition to Geneva should be considered. In response to questions from one representative, the Executive Secretary clarified the interrelationships and the distinctions among the different activities being undertaken by the interim secretariat in support of the Convention.

130. The Committee expressed appreciation for the contribution of the interim secretariat to its work and for the current and future efforts of member States to provide extrabudgetary funding. It noted the importance for the work of the Committee of the forthcoming decisions of the United Nations General Assembly on the programme budget for 1994-1995. It expressed the hope that additional needs beyond those provided for through the programme budget could be met through extrabudgetary contributions. The Committee invited the Executive Secretary to continue collaboration with other organizations in activities in support of the Convention.

XII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION

131. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 27 August, following statements by Co-Chairmen of the two Working Groups summarizing the progress of their work, the Rapporteur presented the draft report to the Committee (A/AC.237/L.19 and Corr. 1 and Add. 1 - 5). The Committee considered and adopted the draft report, as orally amended. It requested the Rapporteur to complete the report, with the assistance of the interim secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairman, taking into account the discussions of the Committee and the need for editorial adjustments.

132. The representative of Colombia, on behalf of the Group of 77, the Executive Secretary and the Chairman made closing statements.

Notes

1/CORINAIR is the component dealing with air emissions inventories of the EEC programme CORINE (Coordination d'Information Environmentale).

2/References made to "operating entity" are without prejudice to there being more than one such entity, as provided in the Convention.

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its eighth session

A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/ Add.1 and Corr.1	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
A/AC.237/27/Rev.1 and Corr.1	Revised draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/29	Letter from the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to the Chairman of the Committee
A/AC.237/30	Letter from the Chairman of the Committee to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
A/AC.237/31	Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of its seventh session, held at New York from 15 to 20 March 1993
A/AC.237/32	Provisional agenda and annotations, including suggestions for the organization of work
A/AC.237/33	Review of information by the Conference of the Parties: the roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/34	Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/35	Criteria for joint implementation. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/36 and Add.1	First review of the information communicated by each Party included in Annex I of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/37	Implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paras. 1-4. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/37/Add.1	Proposals on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for the financial mechanism. Note by the Officers of Working Group II
A/AC.237/37/Add.2	Approaches to the determination of agreed full incremental costs. Note by the secretariat

A/AC.237/37/Add.3	Modalities for the functioning of operational linkages between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism. Note by the Chairman of the Committee
A/AC.237/37/Add.4	Elements relevant to the assessment of funding needs. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/38	Project for an information exchange system for country activities. Note by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Secretary
A/AC.237/39 (and Add.1 in English only)	Information on activities related to the Convention received from United Nations entities and other international organizations. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/40 (and Corr.1 in English only)	Review of the activities of the interim secretariat, including review of extrabudgetary funds. Note by the Executive Secretary
A/AC.237/L.18	Group of 77 and China: draft decision. Recommendations of the Committee to the Global Environment Facility
A/AC.237/L.19 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5	Draft report of the Committee on its eighth session
A/AC.237/INF.10/Rev.2 (English only)	Dates of signature and ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
A/AC.237/INF.12/Add.1 (and Corr.1 in English only)	Communications received in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/195, paragraph 4. Note by the secretariat
A/AC.237/Misc.24/Add.1 (English only)	Information on documentation databases
A/AC.237/Misc.26	Provisional list of participants
A/AC.237/Misc.27 (French only)	Information document on the "joint implementation" referred to in Article 4, paragaraph 2 (a) of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Note by the French delegation
A/AC.237/Misc. 28 (French only)	Priorities and criteria for financing through the Global Environment Facility prevention measures linked with the implementation of the Convention on Climate change. Note by the French delegation
A/AC.237/Misc.29	Criteria for joint implementation. Note by the German delegation
A/AC.237/Misc.30	Criteria for joint implementation. Note by the Danish delegation
A/AC.237/Misc.31	Matters relating to commitments. Note by the Hungarian and Polish delegations

A/AC.237/WG.I/L.11	Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases. Draft conclusions by the Co-Chairpersons of Working Group I
A/AC.237/WG.I/L.12	Review of information by the Conference of the Parties: the roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention. Draft conclusions by the Co-Chairpersons of Working Group I
A/AC.237/WG.I/L.13	First review of the information communicated by each Party included in Annex I of the Convention. Draft conclusions by the Co-Chairpersons of Working Group I
A/AC.237/WG.I/L.14	Matters relating to commitments criteria for joint implementation. Draft conclusions by the Co-Chairpersons of Working Group I
A/AC.237/WG.II/L.6	Proposals on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for the financial mechanism. Note by the Officers of Working Group II
A/AC.237/WG.II/L.7	Modalities for the functioning of operational linkages between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism. Note by the Co-Chairmen of Working Group II

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